National Stalking Awareness Month

It may have been January...But Stalking doesn’t end when the month does.

National Stalking Awareness Month came about in 2004 to promote the public’s awareness of stalking, in addition to developing and implementing multi-disciplinary responses to the crime. In Florida, stalking is a punishable crime. A basic definition for stalking “is a course of conduct directed at a person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.” Simply put it is a continued attempt to gain control and ultimately terrorize a person. A few of the behaviors are repeated phone calls/text messages/emails, following the victim, sending unwanted gifts, use of technology to monitor you, threats and posting/spreading rumors.

Reducing Risk: Here’s A Gameplan

- **Report to the Police**  
- If you’re not sure what to do, Speak to a Victim Advocate, they’re on-call 24/7!  
- Make friends and family aware of your situation in order to develop a safety plan.

Who Can Help?

- Local Police  
  UFPD: 352.392.1111  
  GPD: 352.334.2400  
  ACSO: 352.367.4000
- Victim Advocate  
  352.392.5648
  Annie: annecarper@ufl.edu  
  Naomi: nphineas@ufl.edu  
  *Free and Confidential*

- **Student Conduct**  
  If the stalker is a student file a report here with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office

When in Doubt: 911

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**What Is Stalking?**

“While legal definitions of stalking vary from one jurisdiction to another, a good working definition of stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.”

The National Center for Victims of Crime

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**The Law’s On Your Side**

The 2013 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) amended the Clery Act to require colleges and universities to disclose all reported crimes on campuses, including Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence.

According to Florida State Statute 784.048, “A person who willfully, maliciously, and repeatedly follows, harasses, or cyberstalks another person commits the offense of stalking, a misdemeanor of the first degree.” However, if in addition the person makes a credible threat, the offense is deemed aggravated stalking, a felony of the 3rd degree.

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Trust Your Gut, Let Someone Know

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**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter**

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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THE SEARCH IS ON:  
Growing The Peer Advocate Program

The UFPD’s Office of Victim Services is actively seeking student leaders for the Peer Advocate team! This team is comprised of UF Students interested in developing Victim Services on UF’s Campus. Peer Advocates will have the opportunity to educate peers in on-campus presentations, develop training programs related to victim services, and assist in the coordination and implementation of community outreach events. Applicants should be at least 18 years of age, have an interest in topics relevant to victim services, and a desire to advocate on behalf of fellow Gators.

For more information, you may contact Annie Carper or Naomi Phineas at 352-392-5648 or e-mail your resume and letter of interest to annekcarper@ufl.edu and nphineas@ufl.edu.

WHO ARE WE?
The Office of Victim Services (OVS) assists all victims of crime including, but not limited to, sexual assault, battery, intimate partner violence, stalking & or harassment.

Advocacy services we provide include: crisis intervention, accompanying victims to criminal justice/Student Conduct proceedings, obtaining financial reimbursement for losses/expenses, filing for Injunction for Protection Orders & advocating for students with professors if special accommodations are necessary.

The role of the victim advocate is to inform victims of crime on what options are available, and support or assist them in whatever option they choose. Victim Advocates are a free and confidential resource, available 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week.

Additionally, OVS is available to make educational presentations covering a broad scope of topics.

For more information or to receive services, please call 352.392.5648 from 8am-5pm, or 352.392.1111 after hours.